

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-35 (Canceled).

36 (Previously Amended). A method for providing circulatory support, comprising:
withdrawing blood from a first predetermined location in a circulatory system of a patient; and

returning the withdrawn blood to a second predetermined location in the circulatory system of the patient,

wherein the steps of withdrawing and returning are performed by providing a cannula assembly comprising

a first cannula defining a first flow path for transporting blood between a pump and a first predetermined location within the circulatory system of a patient; and

a second cannula sized and configured to slidably receive and guide at least a portion of the first cannula in a non-linear direction to extend at least a portion of the first cannula a desired length beyond the second cannula and permitting adjustment of the length the first cannula extends beyond the second cannula, the first and second cannulas forming, between them, sized and configured to slidably receive at least a portion of the first cannula to form a lumen between the first and second cannulas, the lumen defining a second flow path for transporting blood between a pump and a second predetermined location within the circulatory system of the patient,

wherein the first and second cannulas are dimensioned to extend, in use, into the respective first and second predetermined locations through a single incision formed in a vascular system of the patient.

37 (Previously Amended). A method for inserting a cannula assembly into a patient, comprising:

forming a single incision in the vascular system of the patient;

providing a cannula assembly comprising

a first cannula defining a first flow path for transporting blood between a pump and a first predetermined location within the circulatory system of a patient; and

a second cannula sized and configured to slidably receive and guide at least a portion of the first cannula in a non-linear direction to extend at least a portion of the first cannula a desired length beyond the second cannula and permitting adjustment of the length the first cannula

extends beyond the second cannula, the first and second cannulas forming, between them, sized and configured to slidably receive at least a portion of the first cannula to form a lumen between the first and second cannulas, the lumen defining a second flow path for transporting blood between a pump and a second predetermined location within the circulatory system of the patient,

wherein the first and second cannulas are dimensioned to extend, in use, into the respective first and second predetermined locations through a single incision formed in a vascular system of the patient;

advancing a distal end of the first cannula through the incision to a first predetermined location within the circulatory system of the patient; and

advancing a distal end of the second cannula through the incision to a second predetermined location within the circulatory system of the patient.

38 (Previously Amended). A method of circulating fluid through a cannula system comprising the steps of

(1) inserting the cannulation assembly into a first predetermined location in a body through a vascular incision; the assembly comprising

a first cannula defining a first flow path for transporting blood between a pump and a first predetermined location within the circulatory system of a patient; and

a second cannula sized and configured to slidably receive and guide at least a portion of the first cannula in a non-linear direction to extend at least a portion of the first cannula a desired length beyond the second cannula and permitting adjustment of the length the first cannula extends beyond the second cannula, the first and second cannulas forming, between them, sized and configured to slidably receive at least a portion of the first cannula to form a lumen between the first and second cannulas, the lumen defining a second flow path for transporting blood between a pump and a second predetermined location within the circulatory system of the patient

wherein the first and second cannulas are dimensioned to extend, in use, into the respective first and second predetermined locations through a single incision formed in a vascular system of the patient;

(2) establishing flow communication between a first one of the flow paths and the first predetermined location;

(3) slidably moving a second one of the flow paths into a second predetermined location spaced apart from the first predetermined location;

(4) establishing flow communication between the second flow path and the second predetermined location;

(5) coupling the first and second flow paths to a pump system; and

(6) operating the pump system to transport fluid from the first predetermined location for introduction into the second predetermined location.

39 (Canceled).

40 (Previously added). A method as in claim ~~36~~ ^{1, 2, 3} or ~~37~~ or ~~38~~ wherein the second cannula includes at least one pre-formed curve.

41 (Canceled).
